

M'LEAN DINNER STARTS COMMENT

Woman Spends Fortune
on Elaborate Affair in
National Capital

Special to Daily News.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—While 50,000 men, women and children mill workers at Lawrence, Mass., were out of work because of a strike to prevent a cut in this \$6, \$7 and \$8 a week wages, Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean, mother of the baby that is heir to \$100,000,000, gave a \$15,000 dinner to 50 guests at Washington, the nation's capital.

The hostess at this banquet wore diamonds that actually cost more than half a million dollars. In her hair was displayed the "famous" Hope diamond, which cost \$180,000, and at her throat another widely celebrated gem, "Star of the East," which was even larger than the Hope diamond.

The cost per plate at the McLean dinner was \$700. One item in the expense was 4,000 yellow lilies imported from abroad at a cost of \$1 each.

One of the highest paid mill workers at Lawrence would have to work 54 years to receive the cost of that banquet. The earnings of a dozen Lawrence workers for half a century would not have purchased the gems worn by Mrs. McLean. A Lawrence worker would have to labor 21 years to pay for the yellow lilies alone.

The strike of the men, women and children at Lawrence, and the \$700 a plate dinner in Washington, is a striking example of conditions existing under a system of excessive taxation in the year of our Lord 1912. Neither the Lawrence strike nor the \$35,000 McLean dinner are exceptions. They are but samples of many similar illustrations which could be cited if space permitted. Only recently, Wm. M. Wood, the head of the woolen trust, whose employees are now on strike at Lawrence, was arrested for knocking down and running over a pedestrian with his automobile. When arraigned in court he was asked how many automobiles he owned, and he replied he didn't know. Imagine a man so rich he doesn't know how many automobiles he has on hand.

Fortunes which make it possible for one woman to wear a half a million dollars' worth of diamonds at one time, and which enable a man to possess so many automobiles he cannot keep track of them, necessarily come through the power to place a price on the things which the common people must have in order to live.

It is significant in this connection that the tariff, the cost of living, \$700 a plate dinner—everything but the workman's wages have increased hand in hand, revealing the intimate relationship of one to the other.

"The Story of the Extra Session"
Congressman Ebenezer J. Hill, standpat protectionist of Connecticut, made a speech in the House recently which he considered a gem. He extolled the Payne-Aldrich law to the skies, proclaiming in a loud voice it had nothing to do with high prices. Mr. Hill thought so well of his speech that he named it "The Story of the Extra Session" and sent it broadcast among his constituents, asking them to read it and to comment upon it. Some of the comments, however, were not what Mr. Hill expected. The following comment sent in from a resident of Stratford, Conn., for instance, must have been a severe jolt to Mr. Hill's standpat nerves.

My wife and I came to New York by steamer, having with us seven

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Women who bear children and remain healthy are those who prepare their systems in advance of baby's coming. Unless the mother aids nature in its pre-natal work the child finds her system unequal to the demands made upon it, and she is often left with weakened health or chronic ailments. No remedy is so truly a help to nature as Mother's Friend, and no expectant mother should fail to use it. It relieves the pain and discomfort caused by the strain on the ligaments, makes pliant and elastic those fibres and muscles which nature is expanding, prevents numbness of limbs, and soothes the inflammation of breast glands. The system being thus prepared by Mother's Friend dispels the fear that the crisis may not be safely met. Mother's Friend assures a speedy and complete recovery for the mother, and she is left a healthy woman to enjoy the rearing of her child. Mother's Friend is sold at drug stores. Write for our free book for expectant mothers which contains much valuable information, and many suggestions of a helpful nature.

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OPERA GAINING ADDED SUPPORT

American Managers Find
Their Troubles Dimin-
ishing Each Season

New York, Feb. 13.—Congratulate the American opera manager. He is beginning to see a safe financial harbor. Until recent years the business of opera has been more than ordinarily hazardous, but if the success won by the Metropolitan, the Philadelphia-Chicago and the Boston Opera companies continues it will not be long before the impresarios may slap fat pocketbooks and smile contentedly.

The Metropolitan, especially, has cause to look like the cat that swallowed the canary, for the excellent reason that this year's surplus will approach the \$200,000 mark. The Philadelphia-Chicago company will about pay expenses and the Boston institution expects to do almost as well. Only a short time ago all three companies found trouble in securing from the public enough support to pay the yearly bills, but the growth of opera in America has now assumed such proportions that many believe it only a matter of time until all cities of a quarter of a million of over will have their own opera houses.

When this time comes it will offer fine opportunities to the many American singers preparing for opera to secure their stage experience in their own country instead of being compelled to go abroad for it. Likewise, such a state of affairs will broaden the musical possibilities for all engaged in the profession and make the United States the first musical country in the world.

In the old opera days, when Henry E. Abbey and Maurice Grau fought for recognition on this side of the Atlantic, their monetary worries kept them awake nights. These men not only had to raise thousands of dollars every season before they could sign contracts with the foremost European stars, but they also had other heavy expenses prior to the time when the curtain rose on the first performance of the year.

These days the chief executives of the three leading opera companies of the United States can rely upon the comfortable advance subscriptions which form the mainstay of the twenty-odd weeks that covers the yearly operations—and also look for increased support from the general public that buys its tickets for separate performances.

Oscar Hammerstein's recent ultimatum to the operagoers of London to the effect that he would close his house unless satisfactory subscriptions were forthcoming sounded the keynote of the opera manager's needs. Without a fair season subscription the uncertainty of providing a long series of presentations is too risky, and this is causing the various impresarios to give more thought to this end of the business than ever before.

No little interest is being shown in the coming tour to be made throughout the United States by the London Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Nikisch, looked upon as one of the most brilliant conductors that ever lived. It is several years since the former leader of the Boston Symphony Orchestra has exercised his gifts in this land and his efforts will be well worth observing.

While his organization may not rank as a musical body with some of the best we have ever here, it is certain that Nikisch will get more from them than almost any conductor who can be mentioned. This musician has the musical knowledge and the temperament to accomplish unusual things, and he is certain to make music-lovers attending the concerts be in a state of musical notice.

U. S. Waterway Work in Texas.

Special to Daily News.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—The Federal government has six important waterway projects under way in Texas, and while the bulk of the work is being done on the harbors, Uncle Sam is also pushing the waterways inland. On the intercoastal canal the dredging has been completed between Aransas Pass and Corpus Christi. A corps of engineers is surveying the Sabine and Neches rivers and contracts have been let for the deepening of these waterways from Port Arthur Canal to Orange and Beaumont.

SHOE MACHINERY HEARING IS BEGUN

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13.—Of interest alike to shoe manufacturers and makers of shoe machinery throughout the country is the hearing begun before the House Judiciary Committee today on the two bills introduced by Representative Thayer of Massachusetts intended to prevent discriminations in the sale or lease of machinery used in the manufacture of shoes. The bills are aimed directly against the United Shoe Machinery Company, commonly called the "shoe machinery trust," against whose officers criminal action is pending in the Federal Courts. The bills make it a criminal offense for any firm or individual to place any restrictions upon the free purchase and use of any tools, appliances or machinery used in the manufacture of shoes.

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